

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

PARK SERVICE DROPS RESEARCH REJECTION

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — The U.S. National Park Service has relented and agreed to let a Christian geologist collect rock samples from the Grand Canyon. Andrew Snelling, who has a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Sydney in Australia, tried for four years to get permission to collect the samples. The agency only agreed after lawyers with Alliance Defending Freedom filed a federal lawsuit. Park Service officials initially denied Snelling's request after asking for a review from several scientists, who rejected his belief in young earth creationism and said he lacked proper scientific credentials.

LA. ABORTION REGS COMING UNDER FIRE

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP) — The Center for Reproductive Rights has filed a lawsuit over Louisiana's abortion facility licensing law and other health and safety regulations. The group sued on behalf of Hope Medical Group for Women in Shreveport and three anonymous abortionists who say Louisiana laws run counter to last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*. That ruling determined a Texas law requiring abortionists to have hospital admitting privileges and mandating ambulatory surgical center standards created an unconstitutional undue burden.

CRISWELL COLLECTION FEATURES 4K SERMONS

DALLAS (BP) — W.A. Criswell, who pastored First Church, Dallas, for 50 years, passed away just as the Internet age was beginning to boom but 15 years after his death, pastors and laypeople around the world are utilizing modern technology and a free website to listen to and research more than 4,000 of his sermons. WACriswell.com features material dating back to 1944, his first year as pastor of First Church, Dallas. Most of the sermons include an outline and PDF of his notes.

Religious or sexual freedom? LifeWay survey: country divided

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — From cohabitation and same sex marriage to birth control and bathrooms, Americans can't seem to agree about what is right and wrong regarding sex, says the head of LifeWay Research in Nashville about an extended study recently released by the organization.

That statement is especially true in Mississippi where, among other hot button issues, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans recently dismissed a bitterly-contested suit involving a law known as HB 1523 that allows the state's religious citizens to decline to become involved in LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) lifestyles.

Disputes arising over such disagreements as HB 1523 often end up in court in highly divisive and controversial cases. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear another case of a baker who refused to make a cake for a same sex wedding because of his religious beliefs.

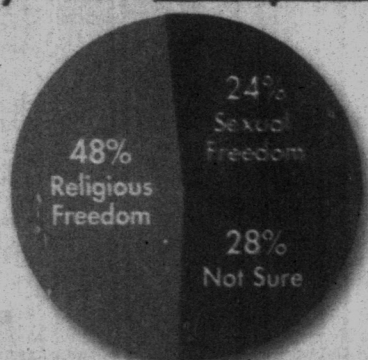
When faith and sexuality clash, which side should prevail?

Forty-eight percent of those surveyed said religious freedom is more important in conflicts where faith and sexuality clash, according to the survey conducted Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2016, by LifeWay Research. Twenty-four

see FREEDOM on p. 6

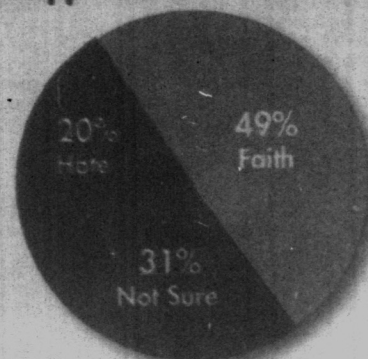
Among Americans:

When sexual freedom and religious freedom conflict, which freedom do you feel is more important?



Among Americans:

In general, what do you think motivates sincere religious believers who oppose sexual freedom?



LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

N.C. law, like MS version, upheld

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP and local reports) — The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va., ruled June 28 in favor of a North Carolina religious liberty law strikingly similar to a Mississippi law currently in effect, in that both laws allow public officials to recuse themselves from performing marriage ceremonies for or issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples.

Under the Mississippi law, which is commonly known as HB 1523, public officials as well as any other state citizen can object on religious grounds to becoming involved with LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) lifestyles in public, business, and private matters.

Like the law in Mississippi, North Carolina public officials who turn away LGBT matters must endeavor to make other officials available to perform their duties.

North Carolina State Sen. Phil Berger, who authored the legislation, cheered the Fourth Circuit ruling and said, "Once again, a federal

see LAW on p. 6

Southern Baptist
Historical Library & Archive
Nashville, TN

Poll: Same sex marriage support rising

NASHVILLE (BP) — Support for same sex marriage was tabulated at its highest in over 20 years of Pew Research Center polling, with young white evangelicals born after 1964 among the societal groups showing an increasing approval of the practice.

Homosexual marriage is supported by 47% of younger white evangelicals today, compared to only 29% in March 2016, Pew said in a study conducted June 8 - 18

among 2,504 adults.

Older white evangelicals overwhelmingly remain opposed. Only 26% of evangelicals in the older groups approve of the practice, comparable to the 25% in the 2016 study.

Support for same sex marriage set a record, with 62% of respondents in favor and only 32% opposed. Republicans, Baby Boomers, and African Americans joined young white evangelicals in driv-

ing the growing approval of the practice, Pew said.

Overall, a majority of white evangelical Protestants (59%) still oppose same-sex marriage, Pew said, with only 35% in favor. Religion continues to drive opinions, with wide margins of Catholics (67%), white mainline Protestants (68%), and the religiously unaffiliated (85%) favoring legal

see MARRIAGE on p. 7

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Find out the truth

Dr. James Dobson, with Focus on the Family, pleads for our action. An organization has been granted a Federal Hearing by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C. Their petition, #2493, would ultimately pave the way to stop the reading of the gospel of our Lord and Savior on the airwaves of America. They got 287,000 signatures to back their stand. If this attempt is successful, all Sunday worship services being broadcast on the radio or by television will be stopped. This group is also campaigning to remove all Christmas programs and Christmas carols from public schools! You, as a Christian, can help! We are praying for at least one million signatures.

This would defeat their effort and show that there are many Christians alive, well, and concerned about our country. As Christians, we must unite on this. Please don't take this lightly. We ignored one lady once and lost prayer in our schools and in offices across the nation. Please stand up for your religious freedom and let your voice be heard. Together we can make a difference in our country while creating an opportunity for the lost to know the Lord.

Please press "forward," clean up the message, and forward this to everyone you think should read this. Now, please sign your name at the bottom. Don't delete any other names, just go to the next number and type your name. Please do not sign jointly, such as Mr. & Mrs. each person should sign his/her own name.

Apparently, many thousands of people have received this breathless e-mail plea at least once over the past several years, if not the last several months. Problem is, it's not true.

According to a statement on Focus on the Family's official web site, "The urban legend about petition 2493 has circulated with different types of

pleas and 'calls for action' for many years. In fact, Focus on the Family has recently learned of a version of the rumor that said that Dr. Dobson himself was asking for people to respond to the e-mail by signing a petition and circulating it to their friends and family. Please be assured that this is not true; Dr. Dobson did not initiate an e-mail petition.

Unfortunately, the old Madalyn Murray O'Hair petition is making the rounds again, this time updated with James Dobson's name and zipped across the country at the effort-less speed of e-mail. Christians, of all people, should not engage in such wasteful and ineffective activities as high tech gossip — and that's exactly what this is.

Sadly, some Christians have embraced urban legends, developing a whole catalog of fables that are often used as affirmation of our faith in the Bible or to warn of a threat against religious liberties. The problem is that by uncritically forwarding some of these e-mails, we often violate the command against bearing false witness, and we hurt the church's credibility when we then try to preach a Gospel of truth," said Greg Hartman, Focus on the Family senior online editor at the time, in Focus on the Family magazine.

"Christians should not rush to believe, much less repeat, unsubstantiated gossip. After all, it is the glory of kings to search out a matter (Proverbs 25:2). As we damage our credibility, so do we damage our ability to witness to the ultimate truth of the Gospel.

"E-mail is a powerful tool, but its ability to quickly, widely, and cheaply disseminate information is only as helpful as the information being spread. As stewards of truth for the rest of the world, Christians need to be judicious in their use of the forwarding button," Hartman said.

That's good advice. In the future, let's all check out such untruths before we pass it on.

Keep the Faith

Thirty-five years ago, my life took a dramatic turn. I married a man who loved the Lord and who had committed his life to serving Him in fulltime ministry. Just days after we married, we moved into an apartment within walking distance of the Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

Low-paying jobs and full time schooling meant that our time there was difficult but sweet, and it was in those early years that God laid the foundation for our future. I believe the things God taught us in those early years are a big part of who we are today. I would like to offer these thoughts:

■ Hard work and sacrifice are highly underrated. The satisfaction that comes from a hard day's work far outweighs empty accolades based on who you are, your position at work, or whom you might happen to know. The principle of sacrifice is a biblical mandate (Romans 12:1).

■ Going without isn't the worst thing that could happen to you. Some of our poorest years were the ones that hold the most endearing memories. It is amazing how much you can do without, amid challenging times. We never went without a meal, though sometimes lunch for my penny-pinching husband consisted of pecans collected from the grounds of the seminary. It was like manna from heaven.

■ Faith matters. I know, you expected this to be in here, and you are probably wondering why it wasn't No. 1 on the list. It's because I know that some folks wouldn't read the list if they thought this was all it was about (because it is). So, I saved the best for last. The very reason we can look back with fondness on those years that were, by the world's standards, difficult is because we began our journey in faith: faith in our God whose promises gave us a foundation on which to build. If our marriage, our ministry, or our family had been built on anything less, the result would have been far different. It's because of our faith that we can learn



Guest opinion
with Vickie Munton

to be content in any circumstance and trust that God is working out His plan for us, even when it's hard or we don't understand.

Every day is a gift, and because our Creator God has given you the gift of this day, don't waste it. Don't waste the struggle, the pain, or the problem. Learn from it. Look for the good in it. Use it to minister to others. Let it mold you into the person God wants you to be.

Take to heart the apostle Paul's counsel: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

"Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable — if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy — dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:4-9).

Munton serves alongside her husband, the pastor of First Church in O'Fallon, IL. She is online at wateringcanblog.com. Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style, clarity, and length.

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Ten Commandments shattered at Ark. Capitol



GONE — The Ten Commandments monument at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Ar., was destroyed on June 28, less than 24 hours after it was installed. (BP photo)

LITTLE ROCK (BP) — City workers have removed pieces of the newly installed Ten Commandments monument from the Arkansas Capitol grounds in Little Rock after a Van Buren man apparently toppled it with his car.

The six-foot-tall stone monument was installed June 27 and was destroyed less than 24 hours later after Michael Tate Reed, 32, of Van Buren allegedly drove a vehicle into the statue. City officials told the media he carried out the act while streaming it live on Facebook.

Chris Powell, a spokesman with the Secretary of State's Office, said he was notified earlier on June 28 that a man had driven a vehicle through the monument. Reed was arrested by Capitol police shortly afterward.

He was previously accused of destroying a Ten Commandments monument in Oklahoma, according to news reports.

An arrest report on the Pulaski County Sheriff's Department website reported Reed is being charged with defac-

ing objects of public interest, criminal trespass, and first degree criminal being held without bail pending an initial court appearance.

An officer said he spotted a dark-colored vehicle "start from a stopped position and ram the Ten Commandments monument" shortly before 5 a.m. Wednesday. The arrest report for Reed listed "unemployed/disabled" under occupation.

State Sen. Jason Rapert (R-Bigelow) who sponsored the 2015 law to erect the monument on state grounds, called the statue's destruction "an act of violence" and said he expects to be able to raise funds quickly to replace the display, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported.

A Facebook Live video attached to an account under the name Michael Reed, appears to show a driver shining his headlights on the monument and shouting, "Freedom!" as he drives toward it. As the vehicle makes contact with the monument, the video cut out, the Democrat-Gazette reported.

In another Facebook video posted by a man who identified himself Michael Reed, the Democrat-Gazette reported, the man described his beliefs

in both Jesus and the separation of church and state.

"I'm a firm believer that part of salvation is that we not only have faith in Jesus Christ but we obey the commands of God, and that we confess Jesus as Lord," the Democrat-Gazette reported he said in the video. "But one thing I do not support is the violation of our Constitutional right to have the freedom that's guaranteed to us, that guarantees us the separation of church and state."

There's "no one religion" that the government should represent, he reportedly said in the video.

In 2014, Reed was accused of ramming his truck into a Ten Commandments statue of a similar design at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City, the Tulsa World reported.

Authorities said he also made threats against former U.S. President Barack Obama, set fire to money, and walked into a federal building to spit on pictures, the paper reported.

Reed was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder after being taken to a mental facility for evaluation following the crash, the report said.



REED

N.C. past president mulling third Congress campaign

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — A past president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is drawing media attention for his decision to resign the pastorate as he considers a third run for the U.S. Congress.

The Charlotte Observer newspaper, local television stations, and Charlotte's largest talk radio station are among the media outlets to report on Mark Harris' June 11 resignation from a 12-year pastorate at First Church in Charlotte, which averages 700-800 in Sunday morning worship.

Harris told Baptist Press his decision stemmed from a sense of calling to politics and his awareness of "a distinct need" for pastors "not just to take a position on the sideline" of American public life, "but to get engaged."

In addition, he said he believes First Church, Charlotte, "needs a senior pastor that does not have the distraction of a campaign."

Harris, a member of the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee, has not formally announced his candidacy but is "looking toward that decision," he said. First Church is considering how to manage the pastoral transition, with the possibility of Harris continuing to fill the pulpit through December.

While Harris still senses a call to ministry, he said "it is an important

"There continues to be a tremendous need for voices that are going to stand on righteousness, that recognize where we are moving as a nation."

Mark Harris

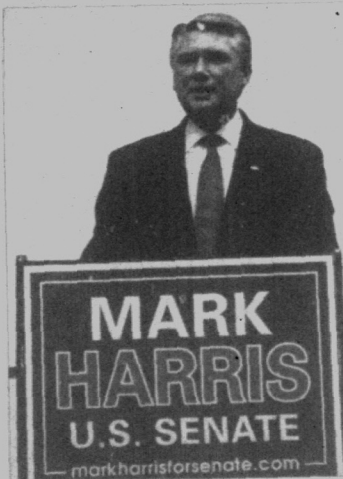
pastor, First Church Charlotte

calling" when God leads a pastor to utilize his giftedness for ministry and his "empowerment of the Holy Spirit... to shape public policy."

"There continues to be a tremendous need for voices that are going to stand on righteousness, that recognize where we are moving as a nation," Harris said, noting "the culture seems to become more and more infected with a liberal point of view."

If Harris becomes a candidate in the Republican primary for North Carolina's Ninth District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, it would be his second run for the seat. He lost to incumbent Robert Pittenger of Charlotte last year by 133 votes out of approximately 26,000 cast in the GOP primary.

Harris also finished third in the 2012 primary for one of North Carolina's U.S. Senate seats.



HARRIS

After the 2016 defeat, "I prayed for God to take this burden away from me" to run for public office, Harris said. He even asked his church staff to pray along the same lines.

"I was crying out and asking God, 'Lord, please just take away my passion,'" Harris said. Yet "that passion

and that sense of call would not go away but frankly even intensified."

Circumstances seemed to be part of God's leading toward another run in the Ninth District, Harris said, when multiple factors in the political world suggested he might be able to win new voters in 2018.

When "seeking God's will," Harris said, "I've always asked Him to open doors that no man can shut and to close doors that no man can open."

With cultural engagement, pastors must be like the Old Testament "sons of Issachar," who "understood the times and knew what Israel should do," according to 1 Chronicles 12:32, Harris observed.

"It's important to be able to recognize the times, recognize the circumstances as you pray and ask Him to open doors."

Harris urged other pastors to consider whether God is calling them to run for public office, and advised them not to immediately rule out the possibility as a spiritual step down but rather to seek the Lord's will for their lives.

While ministry "is indeed a high calling," Harris said, "...we do need to be careful about what we qualify as high, higher and highest when it comes to the will of God and the call of God on a person's life."

It was a holiday and I had no specific responsibilities to carry out that day, and so I decided to take a longer than usual ride on my bicycle. The day was beautiful and I was enjoying the ride and the scenery on a quiet and peaceful day. I went by a new development that is expanding some ways from my house. I decided to ride through there to see what was taking place. It was a beautiful area, and I enjoyed the new scenery.

I was leaving the development at the gated entrance, and when I got there, there was a car stopped at the exit right at a sign that said – Stop Here and Gate Will Open. I pulled up near the car on my bicycle, saw there were people inside, and the car was just sitting there. I assumed that they were waiting for the gate to open. I didn't ask them; I just waited. The problem was that the gate was already open.

The sign said – Stop Here and Gate Will Open. I could see that the gate was open and was locked in the open position by a chain that was around it. The folks in the car continued to sit there waiting for the gate to open. Not wanting to embarrass them or get into a discussion about you can go on, the gate's already open, I finally just eased around the car and went on my way.

As I reflected on the experience, I thought about how many people want God to lead them and even ask Him to open the gate or open the door of opportunity for them, when all the time the door, the gate in life, is standing wide open. I think about that church at Philadelphia in the book of Revelation 3:8 when Jesus says to His church, "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut."

It's that way so often. That God is at work, the door is open, and we just



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Directions

An Open Door

sit there waiting. Now there are times when we need to wait on God. There's no question, but when you ask Him to open the door and it's standing wide open, it's probably the opportune time to capture the moment, to walk through the door, to do what God has asked you to do. Now there are some areas in our lives where that is always the case. It is a God moment that He wants us to do something. Let me just suggest two or three.

One – to forgive. It is always an open door for us to express forgiveness. In fact, we probably spend too much time thinking about it and are too slow in responding to do what we should do in forgiving and moving on with life. You know that great verse that says, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Eph. 4:26). It's talking about making things right before the day slips away. You don't need to wait three weeks in order to make things right with someone with whom there may be a wrong.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said it this way in making things right with a brother that things might be

wrong: "Agree with thine adversary quickly" (Matt. 5:25). He goes on to say you don't need to let it fester and grow and become so big that you can't do anything about it. Make things right, forgive, and you will find that life will be far better. It's true in every area of life, and I will trust that the Holy Spirit will speak to you and to me each time we don't need to sit there waiting on an open door when the door is standing wide open.

Two – to give. In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together" You know the verse. Now it doesn't say when you see a great need to give though that's important. When you have opportunity to give and you see the opportunity, do it to the best of your ability and God will bless that. I have talked to people who were praying about tithing. You really don't have to spend much time on whether or not you need to go through that door. God has given to you, and He has instructed us to participate in the giving process in returning to Him.

Too many of us, I think, are like the sweet lady who was a member of our church. She lived a couple of blocks from the church and nearly always walked to church. It was her exercise program. On the way to church one evening she saw something on the sidewalk, walked over, and it was \$2 that somebody had apparently dropped. She picked up the pair of dollar bills and walked on to church. After church, she was telling me about her windfall blessing that had come her way. I said, "That is fantastic." She said, "Well, on the way to church I prayed about what I should do about the \$2. Should I tithe on the \$2, or because I wasn't expecting the \$2, maybe I should give half of it to the Lord, or because it was not even mine, maybe I ought to give it all to the Lord?" I said, "What did you do?" She said, "I was so confused, I just decided to keep it." Well, when you have opportunity to be a giving, gracious person, at every turn in your walk with the Lord, it will bless you far more than it will bless someone else when you give. The door is open.

Third – to live. It was John 10:10 when Jesus said I have come to give life and give it more abundantly. Just watch and you will see people who are stopped in life and don't get around to really living. Not living for the Lord. Not living a full and abundant life. Not living the joy-filled and eternal life right now. They're stopped there at the gate. Some people never start, and some stop living long before they die.

Today, this day, the door is open for so many blessings in your life. Don't sit there at the sign waiting for the gate to open. It is already open to the great things that God wants to do in your life. Move forward.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Corinth Church, Heidelberg:** Homecoming, July 15, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal. Scott Smith, speaker.

► **Trinity Church, Laurel:** Revival, July 16 – 19; Sun., 11 a.m. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, speaker; Joseph Walters, music; Bill Blair, pastor.

► **Strong River Church, Pinola:** Revival, July 16 – 19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; James Messer, speaker; Jason Wooley, pastor.

► **New Home Church, Lena:** Revival, July 16 – 19; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. – Wed., 7:30 p.m.; John Vaughn, speaker; Jack Hollingsworth, worship leader; Billy McKay, pastor.

► **Arlington Church, Bogues Chitto:** Revival, July 16 – 19; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by meal and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Powell, speaker; Nick Wolfe, music.

► **Goodwater Church, Magee:** Revival, July 16 – 19; Sun., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 1 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, speaker; Richard Thames, music; Michael Giles, pastor.

► **Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty:** Homecoming, July 16,



FLAT ROCK CHURCH, BLUE MOUNTAIN, celebrated its 150th anniversary at its annual homecoming May 28. Cody Matlock brought the morning message, with a concert by the Landmarks Quartet, a memorial service, and potluck meal. Randy Buse, pastor. Shown are some of the members in old-fashioned dress.

10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Jim Futral, speaker; Jason Jones, music; Jerry Causey, pastor.

► **Wayside Church, Yalobusha Co.:** Revival, July 16 – 18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. – Tues., 7 p.m.; Gary Tanner, speaker; Grayson Morrow, pianist; Rickey Harris, pastor.

► **Salem Church, Collins:** Revival, July 16 – 19; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; 6:30 p.m. nightly; John Reid, speaker; Wesley Lee, music; Dennis Campbell, pastor.

► **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth:** Revival, July 21 – 23; Fri. – Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Phil Hoskins, speaker.

► **Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia:** Revival, July 14 – 16; Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Joe Weaver, speaker; Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Mike Burns, speaker; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and 12:30 p.m.; Bill Webb, speaker; Ed May, music; Laverne Summerlin, pastor.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

BPS ACFBKYRCZBW EVOKPY DU VDC

VI CRG ZBCGF, RG ABZ CRG RGBHGPA

VUGPGS, BPS CRG AUKFKC NKMG B

SVHG SGAEGPSKPY DUV P RKO.

OBFM VPG: CGP

Clue: K = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew 1:23

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 13, 2017

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.



**GET CONNECTED WITH
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contact the Collegiate Ministry Department at 601-292-3299.

2017 Sunday School/Small Groups Trainings

EQUIPPING PEOPLE
epic
IN CHURCH

August 26

First Baptist Church, Laurel

9 a.m. - noon

Preschool - Melita Thomas (LifeWay)

Children - Candace Powell (LifeWay)

Students - Kenny Stanteen (FBC Clinton)

Adults - David Apple (LifeWay)

Contact Sarah Lee in Sunday School/Small Groups at
601-292-3291 or slee@mbcb.org for more info.



CMM

CHURCH MUSIC MISSISSIPPI

July 27 - 29, 2017

WORSHIP BAND TEACHING by Cliff Duren Band:

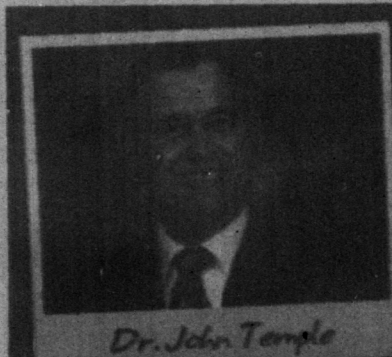
Bass Guitar Rhythm Guitar Lead Guitar
Drums Keyboard

Classes Offered:

Keyboard Youth Leadership
Preschool/Children's Music Handbells

Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon
Cost: \$50 (conference & banquet meals only)
Register at www.tinyurl.com/2017CMM

Church Music Department - 601-292-3267



Dr. John Temple

Since our One Day Stewardship Revival, we have implemented suggestions that has increased contributions and encouraged consistency of giving. The event was so encouraging, the congregation asked for more events of similar nature to be scheduled in the near future.

John Temple
Pastor
Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian

ONE-DAY Stewardship REVIVAL

Encourage your church to develop a culture of generosity through faithful discipleship.

For a brochure and more information please contact the Stewardship Council, National Program Department at 601-292-3305 or visit www.mbcbs.org

TOGETHER FOR CHRIST



A conference for
Pastors & Worship Leaders

Worship theology and practical application of Biblical truth in building healthy disciple making worship ministries.

August 17 - First Baptist Church
August 18 - First Baptist Church
August 28 - First Baptist Church

Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon

Contact PLO at 601-292-3305 or vcclary@mbcb.org

GO Growing Churches Conference

Friday & Saturday, August 11th & 12th, 2017

Harrisburg Baptist Church
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Thursday, August 10 - First Baptist Church
12513 MS - 57 - VanCleave, MS

Thursday, August 17 - Liberty Baptist Church
5199 Lakeland Dr. - Flowood, MS

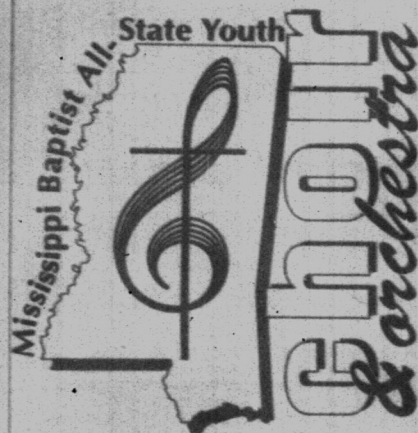
Thursday, August 24 - First Baptist Church
328 Grand Ave. - Yazoo City, MS

These workshops will provide youth ministry training and an opportunity to discuss youth ministry as it relates to the smaller churches and churches that don't employ a full-time paid youth minister. A light supper will also be served to all participants.

To Register, visit:

www.tinyurl.com/mbcbsmallchurchworkshops

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Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church planting & evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mouney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through Strategy Coordination.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Lissa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Patnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royce**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Jenna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & regional office support.



Miss Anna Grace D.
09/12/99
Parents: P & D
European Peoples Groups

Miss Abigail
09/20/12
Parents: B & J
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To Be Sent August 18, 2017, by the WMU Office



PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birth-day cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!
NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.
FOR SECURITY: cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCH WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



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Christian Action CONCEPTS

VOL. 1 | ISSUE 7 | WWW.CHRIStIANACTION.COM

CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

WITH KENNY DIGBY



The best discipline for a child of God is SELF-DISCIPLINE. One of the ways we practice self-discipline is self-denial. Paul discusses the self-discipline of self-denial in 1 Corinthians, chapters 7-9. If there ever was a group of believers who needed self-discipline, these believers at Corinth needed it.

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul says he had the right to enter into Marriage. (I believe Paul to have been a widower — the rising star of Judaism could not have been unmarried.) But for the following reasons (1. Persecution of Men — v. 26; 2. Problem of Marriage — v. 28; 3. Promise of the Messiah — v. 29; 4. Priority of the Ministry — v. 35), Paul voluntarily gave up Marriage.

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul understands that idols are nothing, and he could eat the Meat offered to false gods. But he would eat no such Meat if it offended his weaker brother. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul had every right to receive Money for his ministry. But he gladly "made tents" to support himself.

Marriage, Meat, Money — great examples of self-discipline on Paul's part. We need self-discipline.

However, in many cases we need CHURCH DISCIPLINE (Matthew 18:15-20) in the absence of self-discipline.

Dare to Discipline

A diamond has four C's — carat, color, clarity, and cut. Church discipline has four C's. A church must discipline its members 1. Consistently (get ducks in a row), 2. Compassionately (tears in your eyes, not blood), 3. Courageously (not for the faint of heart), and 4. Confidentially (as long as possible). The four cornerstones of church discipline are 1. Disgrace — public immorality, 2. Doctrine — false, 3. Disruption — of fellowship, and 4. Desertion. Keep in mind that discipline and discipleship have a similar root and are needed for spiritual fruit.

Be warned that without self-discipline or church discipline, there will be GOD'S DISCIPLINE. Read 1 Corinthians 11:30-32 KJV: "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." In a carnal believer's life, chastisement can end in the sin unto death (1 John 5:16).

Self-discipline, church discipline, God's discipline —

Paul preferred self-discipline. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27 KJV: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

We need to quit expecting lost people to act like saved people, but we should expect saved people to act like saved people. Dare to Discipline. I double dog dare you! Our bite should match our bark. Where is our credibility?

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

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MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Robert Mangum, Chairman — Pastor Search Committee, 115 Pine Hill Circle, Mendenhall, MS 39114

College News



Cordova, Tennessee native William Bishop will lead the worship leadership program at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** beginning in August. He will be the program's first director. He earned his bachelor's in music history Summa Cum Laude at the University of Memphis in August 2006. His master's in music ministry came from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 2008. Bishop received his doctorate at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015.



Doug Broome will serve as keynote speaker at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S** summer commencement Aug. 5, 10 a.m. Broome is pastor of First Church, Natchez and is serving his second year as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

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Johnson chosen for BSU post at Ole Miss

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Georgia native Daniel M. Johnson, 26, has been tapped to become the new associate director of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, starting July 16.

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), meeting July 6 in the Baptist Building in Jackson, voted unanimously to hire the present campus missionary for Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville after interviewing him and hearing his testimony.

"I am thrilled for this opportunity that God blessed me with to serve at the BSU at Ole Miss," Johnson said. "I am so excited to see what God will do on this campus. Please pray for the staff and students of

"I am so excited to see what God will do on this campus. Please pray for the staff and students of this campus that we may reach Ole Miss for the glory of God."

Daniel M. Johnson

UM associate BSU director



this campus that we may reach Ole Miss for the glory of God."

Morris "Mo" Baker, BSU director at the University of Mississippi, said about Johnson: "I am very excited for Daniel to be joining our BSU team at Ole Miss. He demonstrates a keen understanding of this student generation and how to reach them, plus as the son of a long-tenured Baptist campus minister in Georgia, he possesses a unique knowledge of the work of BSU ministry."

"More than anything, he walks with God and desires to

bring students to faith in Jesus Christ and grow them as disciples. We look forward to his ministry as part of our BSU team at Ole Miss."

Johnson was ordained in August 2013 at First Church in his hometown of Statesboro, Ga.

He holds a master of divinity degree on the collegiate ministry track from New Orleans Seminary, and a bachelor of science degree in psychology with a minor in religion from the University of Georgia in Athens. Johnson also attended

Georgia Southern University in Statesboro after graduating with honors from Statesboro High School.

He has held a number of youth, student, and collegiate ministry positions in Georgia and Louisiana churches, with stints on the staff of Ridgecrest Camp for Boys in Asheville, N.C. In addition, he served as a team leader for the nationwide Collegiate Disaster Relief program at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

"We in BSU are excited about Daniel coming to serve as associate director for Ole Miss BSU," said Lloyd Lunceford, MBCB collegiate ministry director. "His experience in BSU at the University of Georgia and as an intern at Tennessee Tech University will be extremely helpful in reaching students at Ole Miss. He and his wife Sarah will be a great addition to our team."

"I am so grateful to Mississippi Baptists for their continued support of reaching and discipling students across our state through BSU."

Baptist collegiate ministries in Mississippi are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, by gifts from the churches that surround each BSU, and by student-led fundraisers.

For more information on Baptist collegiate ministries in Mississippi, contact Lunceford at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3299 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 299. E-mail: llunceford@mcb.org. Web site: mcb.org.

The University of Mississippi BSU may be contacted at (662) 234-9366. E-mail: mo-baker@olemiss.edu.

FREEDOM

cont. from p. 1

percent said sexual freedom is more important. The remaining 28% said they aren't sure.

That means a majority of Americans, as reflected in those polled by LifeWay Research, believe sexual freedom is paramount — the baker must produce a same sex wedding cake — or are wobbly on this crucial issue.

"It's clear Americans value religious liberty but when it comes to sex, they aren't sure religion should have the final word. That's especially true for younger Americans and those who aren't religious," says Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

That observation is based on a LifeWay Research's extended analysis of the study of 1,000 Americans in which researchers sought a big-picture look at how Americans view conflicts between religious views and sexuality, McConnell said.

LifeWay Research is an evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches. It is affiliated with LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern

Baptist Convention, also based in Nashville.

The split

The LifeWay study found Americans' views on religious freedom are greatly divided by geography, religious beliefs, and demographics.

More likely to favor sexual freedom over religious freedom in the survey were men (30%), residents of the Northeast (33%), Hispanic Americans (31%), and those ages 18-44 (30%). So were "nones," those with no religious affiliation (49%).

Southerners (53%), those with evangelical beliefs (90%), Protestants (68%), African-Americans (58%) and those ages 55 and older (55%) were more likely to favor religious freedom.

Researchers also asked Americans to indicate if the freedom they selected is always more important or usually more important. Only one in 10 Americans said sexual freedom always matters most.

Americans with evangelical beliefs were more likely to say religious freedom always matters most (74%). Those who attend religious services at least once a month (56%) said

religious freedom always matters most.

Nones (22%) were more likely to say sexual freedom always matters most. So were those who attend religious services less than once a month (13%) and those from non-Christian faiths (15%).

Faith, or hate?

Another major question asked by LifeWay Research was, "Do Americans think religious believers are motivated by hate or faith in disputes over sexuality?"

Forty-nine percent said faith is the main motivation. One in five said hate was the main motivation. The remaining thirty-one percent said they weren't sure.

McConnell said most Americans don't think disputes over sexuality and faith, such as the case of a Christian baker who won't make a cake for a same sex wedding, are driven by hate on the part of religious believers.

Many see that religious believers are motivated by their faith, he said. Others are skeptical.

"About one in five Americans — often those who aren't religious — suspect these disputes are driven by hate," McConnell said. "A third aren't sure. That's concerning."

laws has been the same up to this point. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans on June 22 dismissed a lawsuit opposing HB 1523, ruling the plaintiffs did not prove they had been harmed — a requirement in the federal court system.

In the Fourth Circuit's decision six days later, those judges

also ruled that lawsuit plaintiffs had not proven harm.

Editor's note: Original article used by permission of WORLD News Service, a division of WORLD Magazine (worldmag.com) based in Asheville, N.C. Edited for style and clarity. Local details added by the staff of The Baptist Record.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

LAW

cont. from p. 1

court has rejected the idea that exercising one's First Amendment religious freedoms somehow infringes on others' rights."

Even the legal course of both

God Revealed • Psalm 19

"Dad, how big is heaven?" That night, together, they took a walk through the wooden gate into the pasture. The full moon lit their journey all the way to the top of the highest hill. They laid down on their backs side by side and were immediately overcome by the immensity of the patchwork of constellations covering the sky. After a long moment of stunned silence, dad finally provided the reply: "Well, son, you are looking at one tiny section of the floor."

Chris Rice, gifted composer and singer of songs, put Psalm 19 to music. "Purple sky, dance of waves, shooting stars, cratered moon, sparrow wings, fallen snow, Saturn's rings. Praise Him all His mighty works! There is no language where You can't be heard. Your song goes out to all the Earth." When Chris finished this song, his one-word title says it all: Hallelujah! This word is universal across all cultures and languages. "Hallel" means praise. "Jah" is Yahweh, the Lord of all and Creator of all. I'm convinced that King David and Chris Rice will sing together in heaven at the feet of Jesus. The little short person next to them will be in! Wanna come sing with us? Please do!

God wants us to know Him. He has done everything imaginable in order to reveal Himself to us. God does NOT hide

from us. He has displayed both His greatness and His intimate love for us in the handiwork of His creation. As we view our world in the shock and awe of amazement, we recognize the greatness of His power. We can be assured that we are enveloped inside His meticulous care for us. Clouds, rainbows, mountains, seasons, storms... even the shout of the silence of sudden calm draws us into His embrace. We do not

worship nature. We enjoy creation. We stand in worshipful wonder. We worship The Creator.

In the margin of my bible beside Psalm 19 are these words from my prayer journal: "In the daytime, all creation screams, 'Look at God!' In the nighttime, quiet moments of meditation result in a deeper knowledge of our Lord. Both day and night, creation bears a wordless witness to God, the Maker of all things."

God reveals Himself through His world. Yes. David wrote many songs about God's

world. We see those "David" songs come alive all around us from sunrise to sunset. God also reveals Himself through His Word, the Bible. David included a praise poem in Psalm 19 so that day AND night, those who desire to draw closer to God may praise Him even in the darkness. David sings a song of praise for the Word of God.

The law (Torah) of the Lord restores our souls.

The testimony (statute) of the Lord gives us wisdom.

The precepts (orders) of the Lord cause us to rejoice.

The commandments (instruction) of the Lord enlighten and illuminate us.

His judgements (justice) of the Lord display His righteousness.

We should operate in two arenas where the Lord and His creation and His Word are concerned. We should fear (reverence and stand in awe of) the Lord Who endures forever. We should realize the inestimable

value and worth of The Word of God. His Word and His Word are more valuable than gold. They are sweeter than the sweetest fresh honey from the honeycomb. We stand ready to face any journey of life as we have been taught the truth and warned and encouraged by that warning to lean into the Lord for strength to stand.

When my grandfather prayed, he always closed his conversation with the Lord, "...and now Lord, choose all changes for us and we will be glad to give Thee the praise through Christ, our Redeemer...AMEN." When my grandmother closed her prayers, she quoted Psalm 19:14 (almost) word for word. She was known to have her own method of scripture "trans-po-lation" and might just spin off and add a word or two for emphasis from her own daily quiet time readings. She would say, "...and now Lord, let the words of MY big ole mouth and the meditations of MY heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, THIS DAY, MY Rock and MY Redeemer...AMEN."

Look around you. God is speaking. Look in the Bible. God is speaking. His works and His words are calling to us in the daytime and in the nighttime. Look. Listen. Live.

Brown is staff evangelist, First Church, Richland.



Explore the Bible
with Becky Brown

First Things First • Haggai 1:2-13

Our faith is a history based faith. What we know of God we know by looking backwards. True, we live in present tense but just think of all that you know about God. Someone told you His story. You read His directives from a very old book. God is very much alive and active today but truth is, all foundational truths that we hold dear come to us by way of the past. So, it is vital to our faith that we remember our history.

Haggai was a prophet of history. He lived many years ago but his words seemed to always be said while glancing backwards at the history of Israel. These people had been defeated (2 Kings 24-25), exiled from their homeland and had returned home (Ezra 1-6). Once back in Israel work began on rebuilding their homes and lives. The homes being built were ornate in design. Verse 4 says that these homes were "paneled" meaning that they were structures with ceilings and walls. No more tents for the former exiles. The former slaves were now making for themselves homes suitable for living. Who could blame them? Haggai could because God's Temple laid in ruins.

God had redeemed them from their exile. They had contributed little to nothing to their redemption and it was to Him that they owed glory (vs. 6). The people had become so self-centric that they had forgotten the God that had saved them. Their relationship with God was to be front and center of their lives. Haggai did not want the nation to forget certain truths.

Obedying God takes priority (1:2-8)

This was the exile generation. They needed to be reminded that it was God

alone that saved them and their lives were to reflect that truth. Moses had the same conversation with the wilderness generation (Deuteronomy 30). Moses wanted his people to know that as they were entering the Promised Land, their relationship with God took priority over all others. Haggai was saying the same to his people now that they were back in that same land. God had saved them. They needed to live that truth

and pass that information down to the next generation. He deserved the best of their lives. What was good for Moses' people was good for Haggai's people and rings true for believers today.

Replacing God proves costly (1:9-11)

"Oh what grace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear," says the old hymn. This was true for Haggai's people. They spent their energy on themselves. Their focus was inward. Each day was spent making their lives better. There simply was no room left for God and God could not let that stand. Verses 10-11 are painfully clear. There is no rain and no produce. A drought has crippled the land and it was God's doing. He brought the calamity to His people. Does that prove God to be hateful? No, just the opposite. A loving parent does whatever is necessary to keep their children from

harm even if the solution is momentarily painful. We lose peace when our eyes are off God.

Following God returns blessings (1:12-13)

Imagine this: a wayward country has turned from God. There is no sign of God's influence on the people whatsoever. God sends a messenger preaching repentance.

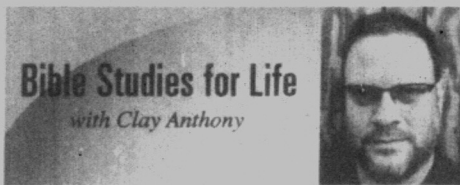
The leaders of that nation lead the way in turning back to God and the people follow suit. A revival of sorts begins because God's message is heard

and believed from government leaders to average citizens. Impossible, right?

Yet this is precisely what occurs in Haggai's day. Zerubbabel was the government leader while Joshua was the spiritual leader. Both take God's message to heart and obey. The people fall into line behind them and God is brought back to the forefront of the nation. His temple is completed in splendor.

Live It Out

What of us? What of our nation? It parallels what we have just read. As does their reconciliation with God that we desperately need. Twice the people are asked to "Consider your ways." (vs. 5b, 7b) They were



Bible Studies for Life
with Clay Anthony

challenged to think about what they are doing and what needed to be done to reprioritize their nation under God.

At this moment, we all can consider our ways under God. Our nation needs Jesus and while He may not be found in Washington, D.C. or Hollywood, the question is if He is found in your heart, life, family and church? Haggai's message must be heard by believers today.

Anthony is director of the Collaborative Missionary Network, Oxford/Holly Springs.

Clarification

In the Sunday School lesson I wrote for the June 22 issue of The Baptist Record, I made a statement concerning Jesus not being our example to live by. I need to clarify those words. Simply put, the thought that was in my head came out wrong in my article. Jesus is most certainly our perfect example toward which to strive each and every day. My head was thinking that because of my sin I could never live up to that perfection in Christ. In short, my words came out wrong and may have been confusing to our readers. My heartfelt apologies for that misstatement. My prayer is that this section of The Baptist Record will edify our churches as we all strive to follow Jesus' example for daily living and spread His Good News of salvation to all people everywhere.

— Clay Anthony

MARRIAGE

cont. from p. 1

marriage for same sex couples.

Black Protestants oppose gay marriage 50% to 44%, according to Pew.

The Pew Research Center, based in Washington, D.C., is described on the organization's web site as, "a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world."

Same sex marriage continues to gain traction globally, with Germany considered next in line to legalize the practice.

Nearly 775 million people now live in countries where same sex marriage is legal, Australia's Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

news reported June 1. Same sex marriage is legal in 22 countries and is slated to become legal in Taiwan no later than 2019 under court order, SBS said.

In addition to the U.S., same sex couples can legally marry in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil,

Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland), and Uruguay.

Just for the Record



The RA's and GA's of **FIRST CHURCH, CHICORA**, went on a mission trip to the Baptist Children's Village in Waynesboro. They presented the home with the money they received during Vacation Bible School. Mitchell Smith, pastor.

In other Church News:

► **Salem Church, Lake**, is hosting the McKameys in concert July 13, 7 p.m.

► **DeSoto Church, DeSoto**, collected \$1537.87 in VBS Malaysia Longhouse offerings to purchase building materials needed to build an apartment. Baptist missions will send volunteer construction teams to provide the labor alongside Malaysian families.



FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, recently honored their high school graduates. Shown are pastor Jay Anderson, Casey Swaney, Marlee Frances, Trevor Freeman, and youth pastor/music minister Tim Johnson.



CENTER HILL CHURCH, HAMILTON, recognized graduating high school seniors with a Bible May 7. Shown are Ethan Foster, Kaylee Jernigan, and Colby Sanders.



CENTER CHURCH, ATTALA COUNTY, dedicated their new fellowship hall June 11. Shown are Michelle Muirhead, pastor Jeffery Hutchison, and Cheryl Pettit.



The youth of **MT. OLIVE CHURCH, TIPPAH COUNTY**, were challenged to paint Bible scenes on a truck.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, recognized college graduate Kaylie Crosby and high school graduate Grant Leake.



Members and friends of **POPLAR FLAT CHURCH, LOUISVILLE**, recently visited the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky.



FIRST CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, ordained Brian Adams and Ed Newman as ministers of the gospel June 25. Shown are Adams, Laura Leigh Adams, pastor Barry Corbett, Gayle Newman, and Newman.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.